

Harvard College is founded

1636 | Grade 2 · Read & notice

Words to know

college — a school for study after high school

record — information kept so people can use it later

access — a way to reach, enter, or use something

Look closely



Modern topic illustration created for Massachusetts History Explorers. It is not a historical artifact.

Read the story

A college began in Cambridge in 1636. It later took the name Harvard. Early students were men. Many studied for religious work. Its history includes learning, exclusion, and people whose labor was exploited.

Think, talk, and show evidence

1. What happened in this reading? Tell one fact.
2. Who or what is this reading mostly about?
3. Choose a word from the word bank. Explain it in your own words.
4. Look at the picture and its caption. What does it help you notice? Is it from the time of the event?

Follow-up reading: Anne Hutchinson challenges authority

1637–1638

Anne Hutchinson held meetings about religion. Leaders disagreed with her teachings. A court ordered her to leave Massachusetts Bay in 1637. She left in 1638. Her story raises questions about who could speak.

How are the two readings alike or different? Tell a partner one connection. Which event came first?

Teacher guide & source trail

Original classroom adaptation. Suggested reading levels are instructional choices, not standardized readability certifications. Use professional judgment and learner feedback.

ELA practice: RI.2.1: ask and answer questions; RI.2.2: identify a main topic; RI.2.7: use images and words; W.2.2 and SL.2.1: explain and discuss.

These tasks support selected skills in the [Massachusetts 2017 ELA framework](#); they do not establish mastery of an entire standard.

Answer guidance

Factual anchor: A college began in Cambridge in 1636. It later took the name Harvard. Early students were men. Many studied for religious work. Its history includes learning, exclusion, and people whose labor was exploited. Harvard is the oldest college in the United States. The colonial legislature founded it. Its history includes ties to slavery, so a full account considers labor and funding alongside famous graduates.

Accept accurate main ideas and explanations supported by the text. Vocabulary meanings are in the opening word bank. For picture questions, use the caption and credit below; distinguish what is visible from what is inferred. For comparison, accept a specific connection supported by both readings. Do not require personal accounts of trauma.

Continue the inquiry

[Research source for this event ↗](#)

[Research source for follow-up ↗](#)

[Event page, accessible HTML reading, and vocabulary game ↗](#)

Image: Original site illustration.

[Image source and rights record ↗](#)

The PDF contains selectable English text and embedded fonts. For adjustable text and browser reading tools, use the event's [HTML page](#). External sources may need adult guidance.